

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-38 cancelled.

39. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a sample of fresh human whole blood for cytometric analysis, comprising the steps of:

- a. contacting at least one leukocyte in said fresh blood sample while said fresh blood sample is still fresh with an aqueous reagent that includes:
 - i. a lipoprotein agent for resisting lysing of white blood cells; and
 - ii. an effective amount of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from said fresh blood sample;
 - iii. a physiologically compatible salt; and
 - iv. a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof;
- b. ~~labeling~~ binding said at least one leukocyte with a fluorescently labeled ~~associated with a known~~ antibody; and
- c. analyzing said at least one leukocyte with an analytical instrument.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein:

- a. said lipoprotein agent is about 5 to about 100/mg/dl;
- b. said agent for lysing erythrocytes is about 10 to about 300 mg/dl; and
- c. said preservative is about 1 to about 6 gm/dl.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said labeling step (b) occurs prior to said contacting step (a).

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least 24 hours prior to said analyzing step (c).

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least 48 hours prior to said analyzing step (c).
45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said contacting step (a) occurs at least two weeks prior to said analyzing step (c).
46. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a sample of fresh human whole blood for cytometric analysis, comprising the steps of:
- a. contacting at least one leukocyte in said fresh blood sample while said fresh blood sample is still fresh with an aqueous reagent that includes:
 - i. about 0.01 to about 5 parts by weight of a high density lipoprotein that is for resisting lysing of white blood cells; and
 - ii. about 0.1 to about 2 parts by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from said fresh blood sample;
 - v. a physiologically compatible salt; and
 - vi. up to about 5 parts by weight of a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof;
 - b. ~~labeling~~ binding said at least one leukocyte with a fluorescently labeled ~~associated with a known~~ antibody; and
 - c. analyzing said at least one leukocyte with an analytical instrument by detecting fluorescence indicating the binding of said antibody with a surface antigen of said at least one leukocyte.